

(57) Abstract: A thin film magnetic medium read head (600) is disclosed wherein the gap plane of the head is parallel to a plane generally defined by either the cores or the coils within the head structure. The read head comprises left and right core pieces (100, 200) of magnetic material, each core piece having a magnetic coil wound thereon and a flexible printed wiring board electrically connected to the coil, to form left and right core assemblies. The core assemblies are loaded edgewise into a plurality of slots (403a, 403b) formed in a pair of mirror image brackets, then a face of each bracket is machined so that the face is flush with an edge of the core assemblies. The two bracket (400) are then bonded to one another with a non-magnetic foil layer (450) between the bracket to establish a gap between opposing core assemblies. The brackets are then divided into separate heads along planes parallel to a plane parallel to the gap plane. A surface of each individual head parallel to the gap plane is then machined to expose a portion of the core assemblies and the gap.